

LIVE OAK PLANTATION HOUSE  
Between Weyanoke and Bains  
West Feliciana Parish  
Louisiana

HABS NO.La. 17

HABS  
LA  
63-WBY.V.  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Louisiana

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Richsrd Koch, District Officer  
Queen and Crescent Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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LIVE OAK PLANTATION HOUSE  
HABS No. La. 17  
Louisiana, West Feliciana Parish (County)  
Between Weyanoke on the North  
and Bains on the South

PART I  
HISTORICAL DATA

William T. Le Sassier, Weyanoke, Louisiana, acquired in 1928 from N. H. Barrow (HABS Field Book, 1934).

The same Field Book gives the date of erection as 1769 with no substantiation; the evidence of the house makes from 1800 to 1810 a more probable date. The interior detail is very similar to that of the American Seaboard prior to 1800, and in many ways is reminiscent of the early work in Natchez, particularly Connelly's Tavern.

This is understandable, as settlers were scarce in this location and in the section about Natchez until the Revolution, when many families came from the Atlantic Seaboard, particularly from North Carolina, because of a reluctance to bear arms against the British Crown. These people brought with them capital, intelligence, and energy. (EASTERN LOUISIANA, Frederick William Williamson and George W. Goodman, Editors; The Historical Record Association, Louisville, Ky., Monroe, La., Shreveport, La. pp.482,485,486)

The name of the original owner, the architect, and the builder have not been learned. In a section where there are many fine old houses in excellent condition, Live Oak has escaped the notice of the historians and writers. At the time the building was measured by HABS, the force was not organized to do original research.

As might be expected, there are other plantations in other parishes with the same, or very nearly the same name, as Live Oak, Vermillion Parish, and Live Oaks, Iberville Parish.

A likely source of information not yet investigated is the Conveyance Office Records, West Feliciana Parish Courthouse, St. Francisville, Louisiana.

Prepared by Georgia Bertha Drennan  
October, 1958

Approved by Richard Koch  
Richard Koch, District Officer

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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PART II  
DESCRIPTIVE DATA

This is a two-story brick stuccoed house with attic; a covered porch at the second floor level across both front and rear. The rear porch may be a later addition.

On the ground floor across the front, there are four circular brick stuccoed columns, with five square wood columns at the second floor level; originally there may have been round turned wood columns here.

This house is of architectural interest because it is a typical example of the early Louisiana plantation house. It was chosen for measurement in 1934 because, while it might have been said to have been in fair condition at that time, its future preservation seemed uncertain.

The house is approached by an avenue of magnificent live oaks, running from east to west from a public road toward a bayou in the rear.

On each floor, there are in the center of the front two similar doors with transoms, each opening into one of the two large front rooms, as there is no hall. All exterior doors and windows are fitted with blinds. The roof is gabled, shingled, with overhangs covering the porches; no dormers. There are four chimneys, one at each end of the ridge-pole, two others in line with them on the rear slope. The house is heated throughout by fireplaces with mantels of simple design.

The exterior front stair leads from the ground floor porch through the floor of the second story porch as is typical with this kind of house. An interesting small interior stair leads up from the dining room, hidden by a narrow, panelled door similar to two others that lead to lockers.

There is no fence about the house, and there seems never to have been a garden, there being only a few Spanish dagger plants informally placed and a few vines at

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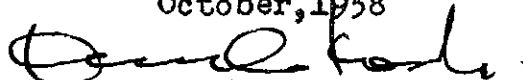
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one end of the porches. This may be the result of the dense shade and the acidity of the soil caused by the heavy deposit of oak leaves.

There is no porte-cochere but there is ample room in front of the house for a vehicle to turn.

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